

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 253019 TOSEC 160313

64

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:MLDURKEE:MJK

APPROVED BY EUR - MR. HARTMAN

S:AADAMS

S/S-FVORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 253019 TOSEC 160313

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV. SP

SUBJECT: FRANCO'S CONDITION WORSENS; TRANSITION MAY OCCUR
SOON. -- BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

REF: TOSEC 160297

1- EMBASSY MADRID AND WIRE SERVICE REPORTS INDICATE THAT FRANCO HAS SUFFERED NEW HEART ATTACK AND MAY HAVE LITTLE TIME TO LIVE. JUAN CARLOS SENT THE COUNT OF MOTRICO TO BRIEF STABLER ON THE ELABORATE SCENARIO DEVELOPED TO GET FRANCO TO TRANSFER HIS POWERS PERMANENTLY TO THE PRINCE (REFTEL). WIRE SERVICE REPORTS SEEM TO CONFIRM THAT THE SCENARIO IS BEGINNING TO UNFOLD.

2. THE TIMING WOULD BE, ACCORDING TO JUAN CARLOS' EMISSARY, THAT FRANCO WOULD SIGN THE DECREE BY OCT. 24 THE CORTES WOULD BE CONVOKED WITHIN 24 HOURS TO BE INFORMED, AND AS EARLY AS MONDAY JUAN CARLOS COULD BE SWORN IN AS KING OF SPAIN.

3. WHILE WE HAVE NO OTHER HARD INFORMATION AT THIS TIME, THE PRESENT STORY HAS RING OF TRUTH IN ITS ALLUSIONS

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PAGE 02 STATE 253019 TOSEC 160313

TO BACKSTAGE ROLE BEING PLAYED BY FRANCO'S SON-IN-LAW,

MARQUES OF VILLAYERDE, WHO AS ONE OF ATTENDING
PHYSICIANS OUGHT TO KNOW DIRECTLY HOW FRANCO IS DOING.

4. IN PREPARATION FOR THIS COURSE OF EVENTS, WE WILL
BE SENDING SEPARATELY DRAFT MESSAGES AND STATEMENTS
FOR USE IF THE SUCCESSION INDEED TAKES PLACE AS A TRANSFER
RATHER THAN AS THE RESULT OF FRANCO'S DEATH. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, HEALTH, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE253019
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MLDURKEE:MJK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750369-0391
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751024/aaaaauxr.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRANCO'S CONDITION WORSENS; TRANSITION MAY OCCUR SOON. -- BRIEFING MEMORANDUM
TAGS: PGOV, SOPN, SP, (FRANCO, FRANCISCO), (BORBON, JUAN CARLOS)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006